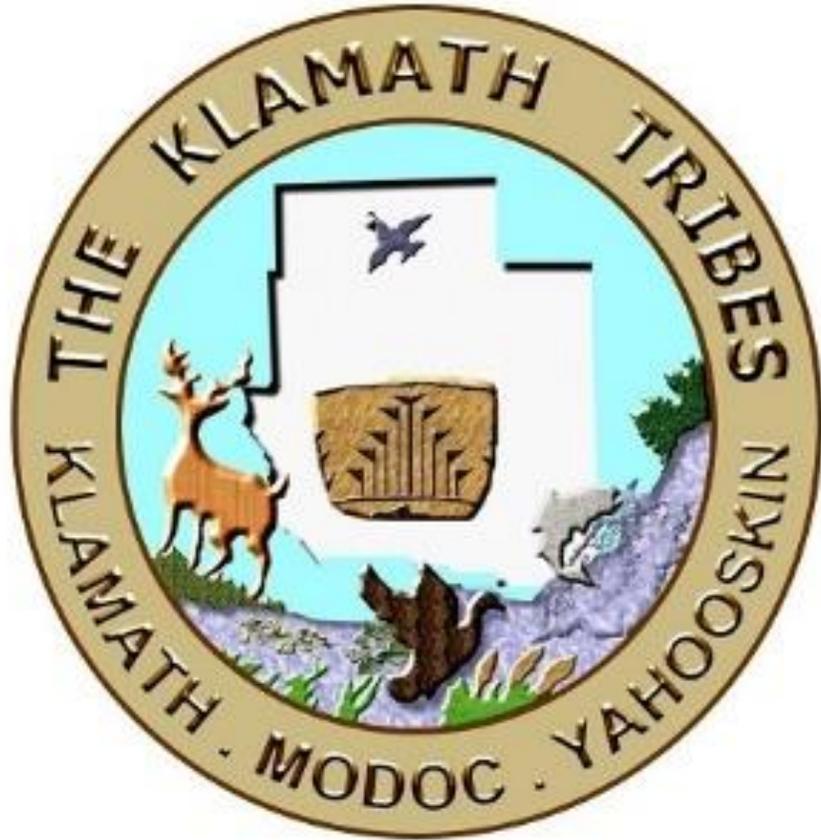




Klamath Tribes and the Boarding School Experience: Part II



TRIBAL HISTORY
SHARED HISTORY

Essential Question

How do we know the difference between helping those who are unlike us and pushing our assumptions (what we think is best) onto others?

Goals of boarding schools

1. Assimilate Native children into the mainstream society.

2. A second goal also emerged in the Pacific Northwest.

- Control hostile Indian tribes by placing their children in the care of the government they were fighting against.

Strategy of the Boarding Schools.

"They very specifically targeted Native nations that were the most recently hostile. There was a very conscious effort to recruit the children of leaders, and this was also explicit, essentially to hold those children hostage. The idea was it would be much easier to keep those communities pacified with their children held in a school somewhere far away."

- Tsianina Lomawaima, head of the American Indian Studies program at the University of Arizona

History of Boarding Schools in Oregon

The first off-reservation boarding school in the West was founded in 1880 as the Forest Grove Indian Industrial and Training School and was later moved to Salem and renamed Chemawa Indian School.

This was the second school of its kind in the nation.

Children from all over the Pacific Northwest and Alaska were sent there.





DAVIDSON, PHOTO.

No. 43.

Davidson, Photo,

NEW RECRUITS--SPOKANE INDIANS.

Portland, Oregon.



*Indian Training School, Forest Grove, Oregon
New Recruits—Spokane Indians, after Several Months at School*

Isaac Grundy Davidson, albumen boudoir card, 1881

FROM *ENDURING SPIRIT*, FORTHCOMING

What differences do you notice?



*Indian Training School, Forest Grove, Oregon
New Recruits—Spokane Indians, after Several Months at Scho*

Isaac Grundy Davidson, albumen boudoir card, 1881

FROM *ENDURING SPIRIT*, FORTHCOMING



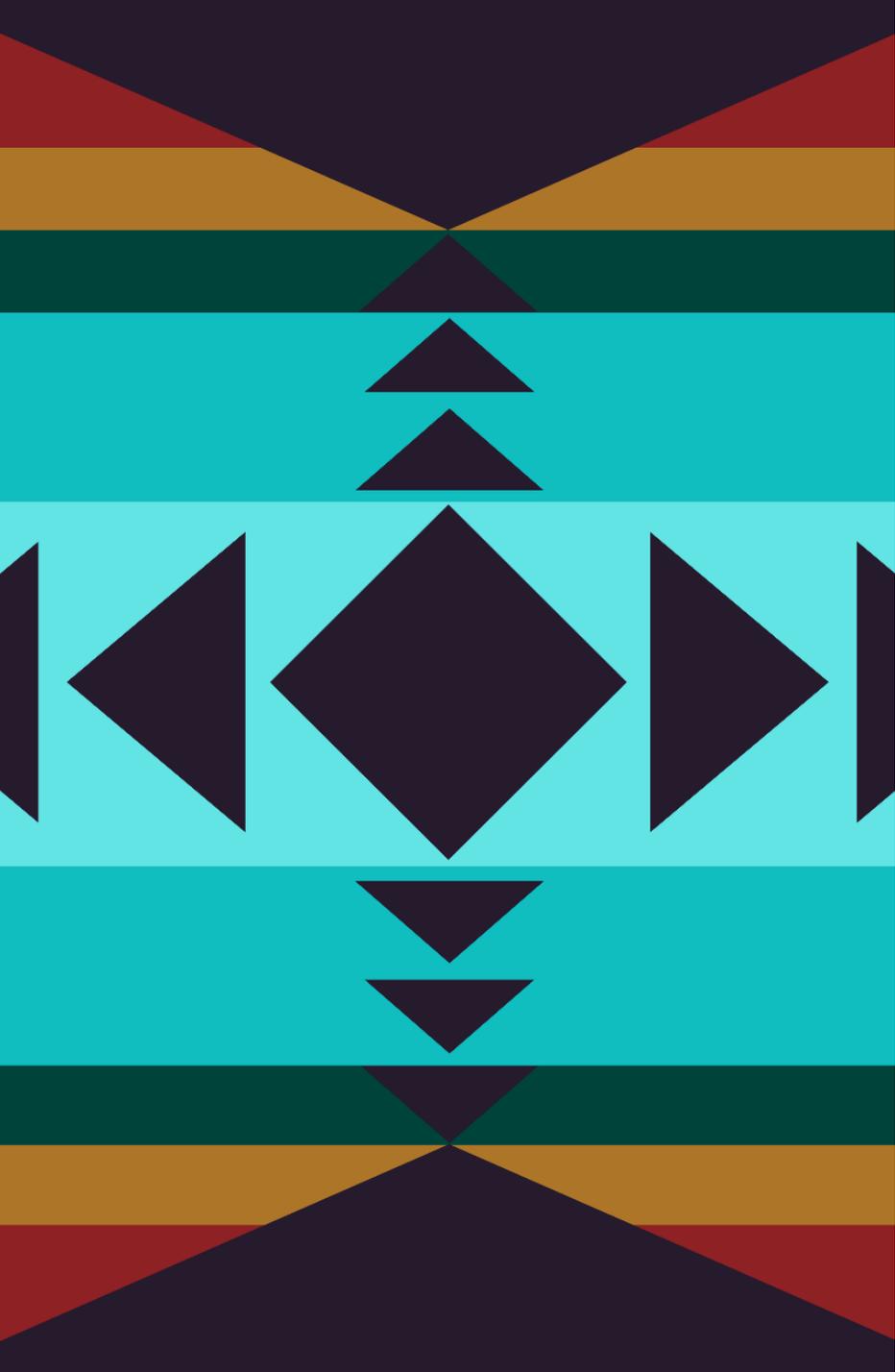
**5 of these students
died by 1888**

DAVIDSON, PHOTO.
No. 43.

Illness & Death in the Boarding Schools

*"IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT TO
EDUCATE AN INDIAN IS TO SIGN
HIS DEATH WARRANT."*

– SUPERINTENDENT WILKINSON, FORREST GROVE INDIAN TRAINING SCHOOL

A decorative vertical border on the left side of the slide. It features a central light blue band with dark blue geometric shapes: a diamond in the center, flanked by triangles pointing towards it. Above and below this band are horizontal stripes in dark blue, teal, and brown, with dark blue triangles pointing towards the center of the stripes.

Impacts of Illness

In Forrest Grove, between 1880-1885 there were over 40 documented deaths out of 310 total enrolled students.

This is a mortality rate of 13% and does not include children that were returned to the reservation due to illness and later died.

Not only were Native children dying at alarming rates at the school, but many ill children were sent back to their reservations where they would spread the illness to the rest of their tribe.

The most common illness was the highly contagious tuberculous. (Guggemos)

“Two or three deaths could kill, almost, the effort.”

- Superintendent Wilkins (Forrest Grove) wrote to Captain Pratt at the Carlisle Indian School

Even knowing how contagious and deadly diseases were to Native populations those in support of the boarding schools were willing to risk the lives of young Native children in unhealthy conditions in order to “educate” them. They were also willing to send ill children home knowing they could and would infect the rest of the tribe.

*One can only imagine what it must have been like to fall seriously ill and then die so far away from one's parents, tribe and home. To have an illness in a boarding school that was designed to break all the cultural ties one had to home. To be hundreds of miles away from family, with caretakers who did not speak your language or value your native spiritual practices, would have been very distressing both for the children and their families.
(Guggemos)*



Klamath Students at Forrest Grove

- Klamath students did not fare well at the school.
 - 19 Klamath students enrolled just prior to the school moving to Salem in March of 1855.
 - John Blow, Lee Scott & Linda Hill all died of Tuberculosis on March 5, 1885
 - 3 more Klamath student died between August and November of 1855
- Rosa Weeks, Ethel Dowase and Caesar Brown (Guggsmon)



The school viewed the cost of the deaths in monetary terms.



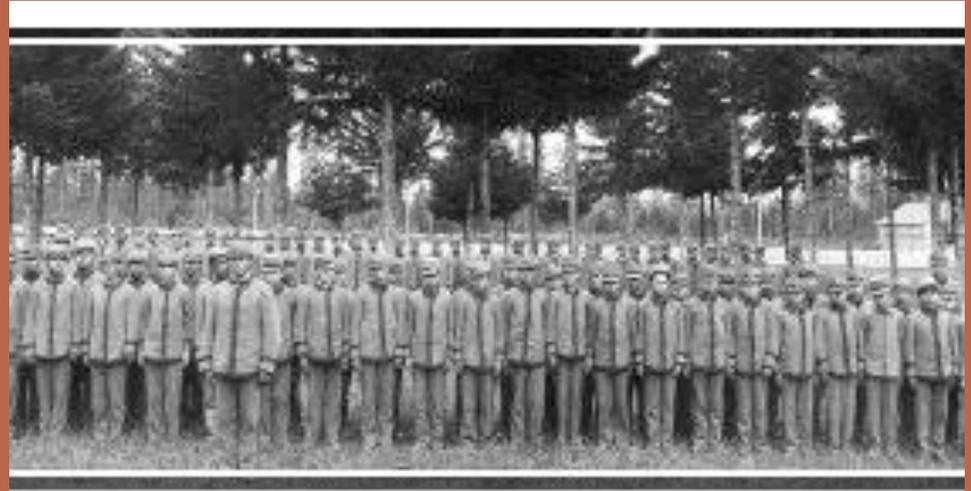
Official records note:

- On August 18, 1885, the school's physician and superintendent, Dr. Coffin, noted regarding the deaths of the Klamath that "the change of climate has seemed to be disastrous to them."
- Their bodies were sent home to their families via train and wagon over the mountains. The cost of transportation was deemed so high that the Secretary of the Interior forbade the Indian School superintendents from repatriating the bodies of other students in the future. "Notice should be given to the Superintendents of the Indian Industrial schools that such expenses should not be incurred: and, if incurred without proper authority therefor, they will be disallowed in their accounts," he ordered.

Due to this order 10 Klamath and 1 Modoc were buried in the Chemawa cemetery where they remain to this day. (Reddick)

Chemawa Indian School

- Is the oldest continuously operating Native American boarding school in the United States.
- Indian labor helped to pay for the land the school sits on, and students cleared the land and build the original campus in 1885.
- Chemawa is still in operation, mostly serving Indian students from the Pacific Northwest and Alaska.



Klamath Tribal youth attended Boarding Schools all over the nation.





Klamath & Modoc Students attending Carlisle Indian School, 1900

The students were
enrolled on May 16, 1900

Klamath Indian
Agent Applegate,
in coordination
with Major Pratt
from Carlisle,
arranged for 9
children to
attend the
school.

Opposition to the Boarding Schools

a letter from Rev. Jesse Kirk, himself an Indian whom I met when there, and who was full of enthusiasm about making up a party for Carlisle. You will see he speaks of the opposition of two Indians Policeman Joseph Kirk and Judge Jack Palmer.

I respectfully suggest that both these men be written to thru the agent and informed that the Office has been made acquainted with their opposition to sending children away to school, and that they be warned to desist from such nonprogressive interference.

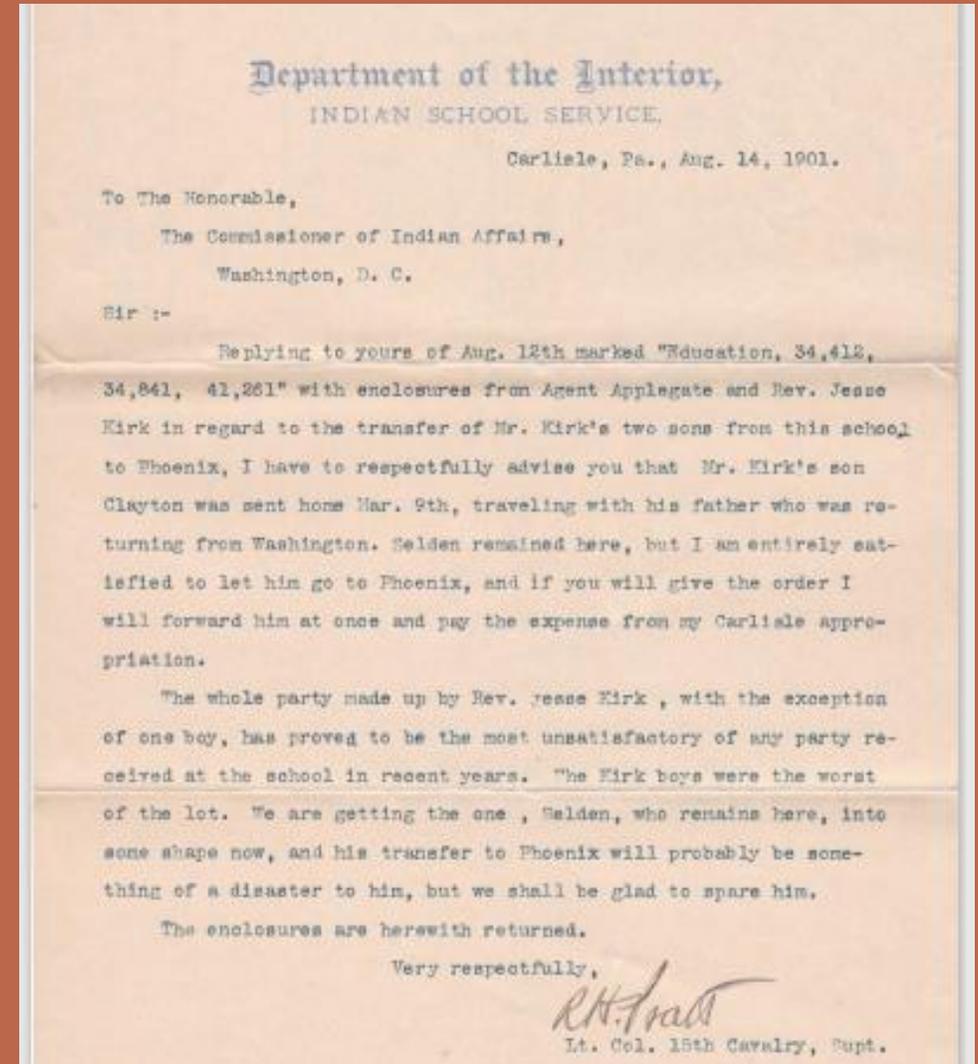
I do not think Rev. Kirk should be given away in the matter, nor is it necessary; but an Office letter thru Agent Applegate I am sure will have a repressive influence.

Richard Pratt writes to the Klamath Indian Agent that those in opposition to sending children to Carlisle "*be warned to desist from such nonprogressive interference.*"

May 12, 1900

Major Pratt Regarding Klamath Youth:

"The whole party made up by Rev. Jesse Kirk, with the exception of one boy, has proved to be the most unsatisfactory of any party received at the school in recent years. The Kirk boys were the worst of the lot. We are getting the one, Seldon, who remains here, into some shape now, and his transfer to Phoenix will probably be some thing of a disaster to him, but we shall be glad to spare him."



This picture was taken at Carlisle Indian School. On the left is Seldon Kirk who went on to be voted Lifetime Chairman of the Klamath People. His older brother Clayton is on the right. Seated is their father Reverend Jesse Kirk the photo was taken in 1901.



Resistance

- Two Klamath youth, Clayton Kirk and Joe Ball ran away from the school and made it almost 200 miles to Pittsburgh before being captured and returned to the school.
- Clayton Kirk was sent home on March 9, 1901 due to illness.
- Image of Joe Ball & his enrollment records that list him as a "Runaway".



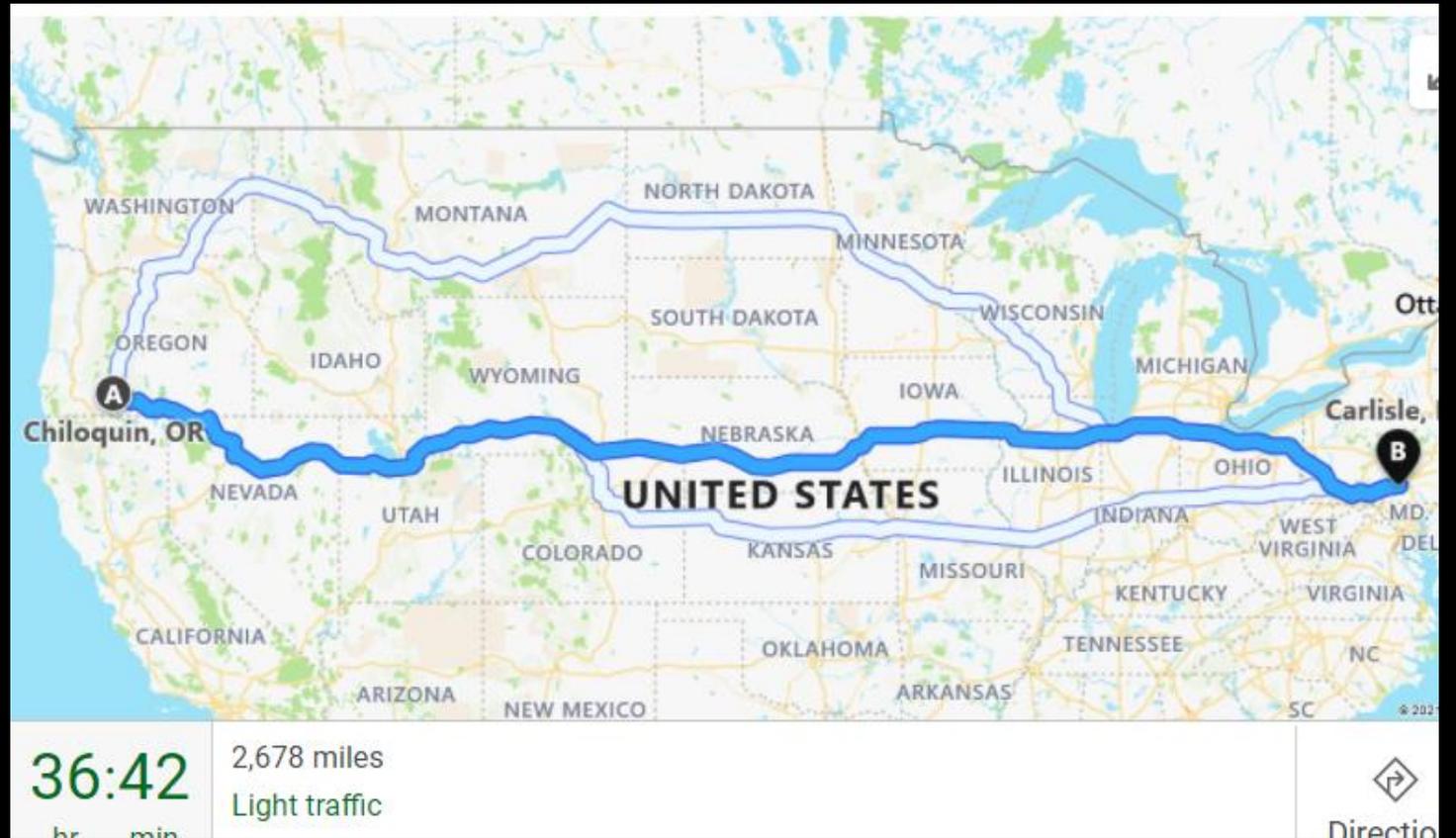
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CARLISLE INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.
DESCRIPTIVE AND HISTORICAL RECORD OF STUDENT.

NUMBER	ENGLISH NAME	AGENCY	RATION				
2506	Joseph S Ball	Klamath	Modoc				
BAND	INDIAN NAME	HOME ADDRESS					
		J. S. Ball					
PARENTS LIVING OR DEAD	BLOOD	AGE	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	FORCED INSP.	FORCED EXPR.	SEX.
		16	5-8	145	36	30 1/2	m.
FATHER:	MOTHER:	ARRIVED AT SCHOOL	FOR WHAT PERIOD	DATE DISCHARGED	CAUSE OF DISCHARGE		
Living	Lena Ball	May 16, 1900	5 years	Sept. 24 '01	Runaway	6/4/01	
TO COUNTRY	PATRONS NAME AND ADDRESS	FROM COUNTRY					

Was there a purpose behind sending children to school so far from their homes?

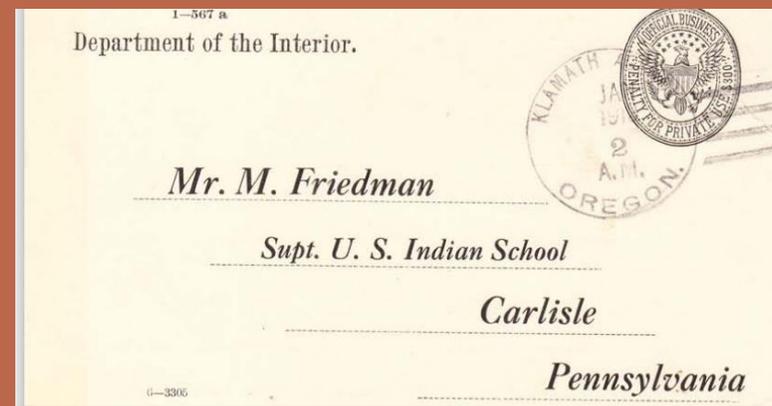
- Joe Ball and Clayton Kirk made it almost 200 miles when they ran from Carlisle, they were still almost 2,500 miles from home.
- The long distance made successfully escaping almost impossible and incredibly dangerous.



Staying Connected

Seldon and his brother Clayton were later transferred to Phoenix Indian School.

However, Seldon stayed connected with Carlisle through the alumni association and used his connections there to advocate on behalf of the Klamath for US Citizenship in 1912.



8-755

December 28, 1912

Name Seldon C Kirk
(Please give name by which enrolled and also present or married name.)

Tribe Klamath

Present Address Klamath Agency, Ore.

Former Address " " " "
(Address from which we heard from you last.)

Present Occupation Rancher

Remarks: Certain members of this tribe are knocking on the doors of citizenship I will later seek your help, provided you are inclined to.

Religious Schools

In addition to the federal boarding schools there were also numerous religious based schools that Native children were sent to. The goals of these schools were similar to the federal schools but had an additional emphasis of converting the children to Christianity.



Klamath Tribal members attended boarding and religious schools all over the country as well as in Oregon.

Among the tribes, there was support for the schools as well as opposition against the schools.

The local Indian Agent was frequently in charge of recruitment for the schools and was rewarded for sending students.

There were local schools at the Klamath Indian Agency as well as Yanix near Sprague River.

Boarding Schools Klamath youth attended in Oregon.

Chemawa Indian School
(previously known as
Forest Grove Indian
Training School) Salem,
Oregon*

Reservation/Agency
Schools Klamath,
Umatilla, Siletz, Grande
Ronde, Warm Springs*

Kate Drexel/St. Andrews
Industrial School*

Yanix Indian Boarding
School *

Canyonville Bible
Academy

Mount Vernon Academy

St Mary's Academy
Albany, Oregon

Not all children were sent away to school.



Old Oregon Photos

- Many students attending a day school located on the Klamath Indian Reservation at the Indian Agency.
- These students were allowed to stay in their homes with their families and only attended school during the day then returned home.
- Image of Klamath Indian Agency 1908.



www.m.ferret

1938 Yearbook

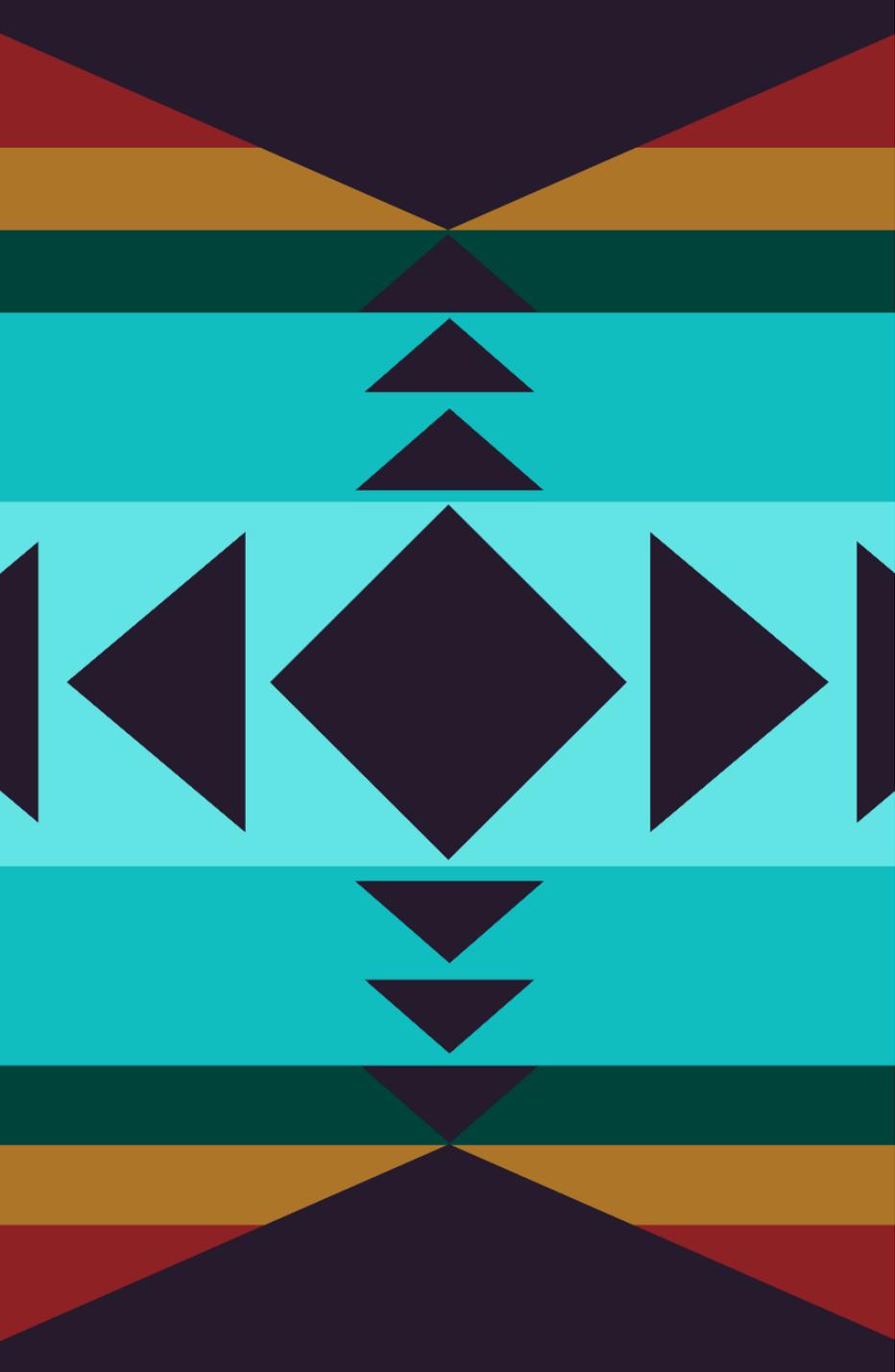




A public school (1/3 Indian children) Elamath Agency

Oregon

W. H. ...



The Boarding School experience changed over time

- **By the 1940's when Native Children were sent to boarding or religious schools many of them were already fluent in English as well as a tribal language.**
- **Many of the federally-ran boarding schools were closing due to cost, and reports of abuse. However, many reservation schools and religious based schools remained open.**
- **Some students were allowed to return home for summers depending on the distance from the school to the reservation.**
- **Communication home was also easier as more people were fluent in English and letters could be exchanged more easily.**

Tribal Members Were Also Sent to Religious Schools

Many Klamath Tribal members were sent to St. Mary's Academy in Albany Oregon.

These students would frequently ride the train from Chiloquin to Albany and stay at the school.

They were oftentimes allowed to return home for summer vacation.

Discipline was very strict at the schools.

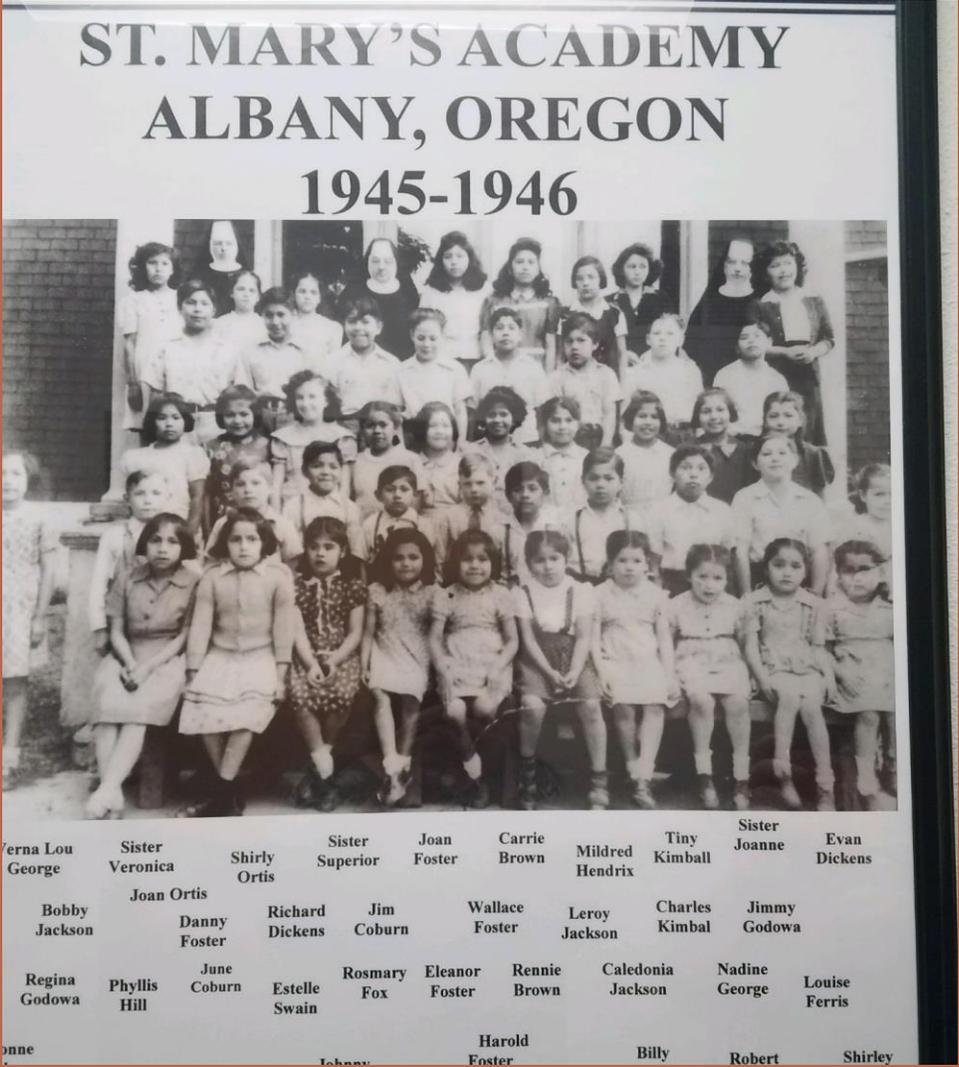


Truth, Reckoning & Healing The Klamath Tribes

7-minute video <https://youtu.be/aPn3DG7A22k>

Staying connected to the past

This photo hangs outside the Education Office at the Klamath Tribal Administration building and descendants of these children frequently will touch their ancestor's pictures when they walk by.



The boarding school experience has changed over time, and the Klamath have changed with it.

1855

- Klamaths attended the first boarding school in Oregon at Forrest Grove that later moved to Chemawa.

1900

- Klamaths attended the first ever established boarding school Carlisle, Pennsylvania in 1900.

1900's

- Klamaths attended schools all over the nation, state of Oregon and at Klamath Indian Agency.

Present

- Now some Klamath Tribal members choose to attend Indian schools but the decision is no longer forced upon them.

Timeline of Boarding Schools

Carlisle Boarding School opened

1879

1st Indian Boarding School opened

Forrest Grove Indian Training School opened

1880

2nd Indian Boarding School in the nation opened. In 1885 school moved and renamed Chemawa in Salem, Oregon,

Meriam Report

1928

Describes the horrible conditions and abuse in the boarding schools.

Indian Children attend Boarding schools

1879-1960

Tens of thousands of Indian children were torn away from their families, forced to abandon their cultures and indoctrinated in federally funded religious schools.

Boarding Schools begin to close

1960-1980

Boarding schools are closing or transferring to tribal ownership.

Chemawa Indian School

Present Day

Longest running Indian Boarding school in the US over 140 years old.

1879-1980 That is over 100 years of forced assimilation through education.

Will we ever know what really happened in the boarding schools?

- **Over 150,000 Indian children attended boarding schools.**
- **Over 6000 children either died or went missing from 150 residential schools in Canada.**
- **There is no such data for boarding schools in the United States and we will most likely never know what happened to all the Native children.**

Why is this history not widely known?

Only 38% of Records have been located (142 of 367 known schools)

- These records do not include schools like St. Mary's in Albany where we know several Klamath Tribal members were sent.

Of the records found 33.5% are in national archives, churches have 28.5 %, tribes only have 1.5%

- This is why the oral stories are so important to the tribal members because there are very few written records of these events.

The true history of these school is just now being uncovered.

Report: Over 600 bodies found at Indigenous school in Canada

Leaders of Indigenous groups in Canada say investigators have found more than 600 unmarked graves at the site of a former residential school for Indigenous children — a discovery that follows last month's report of 215 bodies found at another school

By **JIM MORRIS** Associated Press
June 24, 2021, 4:38 PM • 4 min read



Remains of more than 1,000 Indigenous children found at former residential schools in Canada

By **Mindy Weisberger** July 13, 2021

State-run boarding schools for Indigenous children operated in Canada between 1863 and 1998.



In 2021 multiple mass unmarked graves were discovered related to residential schools mostly in Canada. This history is just now being uncovered to date they have found 7,310 bodies of Native children using ground penetrating radar.

7310

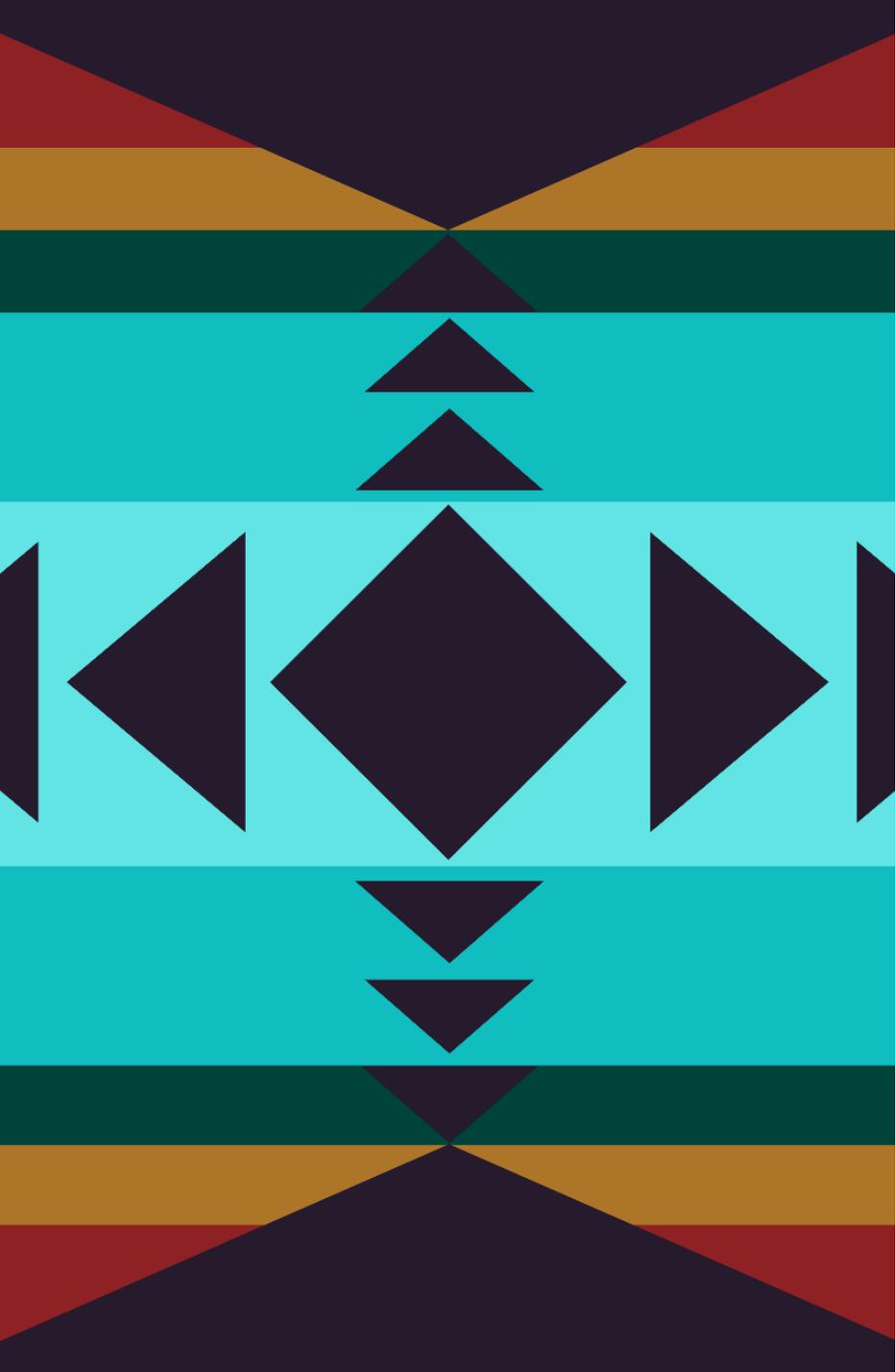


What can you do?

September 30 –Day of Remembrance –wear orange

Support any boarding school initiatives

Learn about the issues and share your knowledge



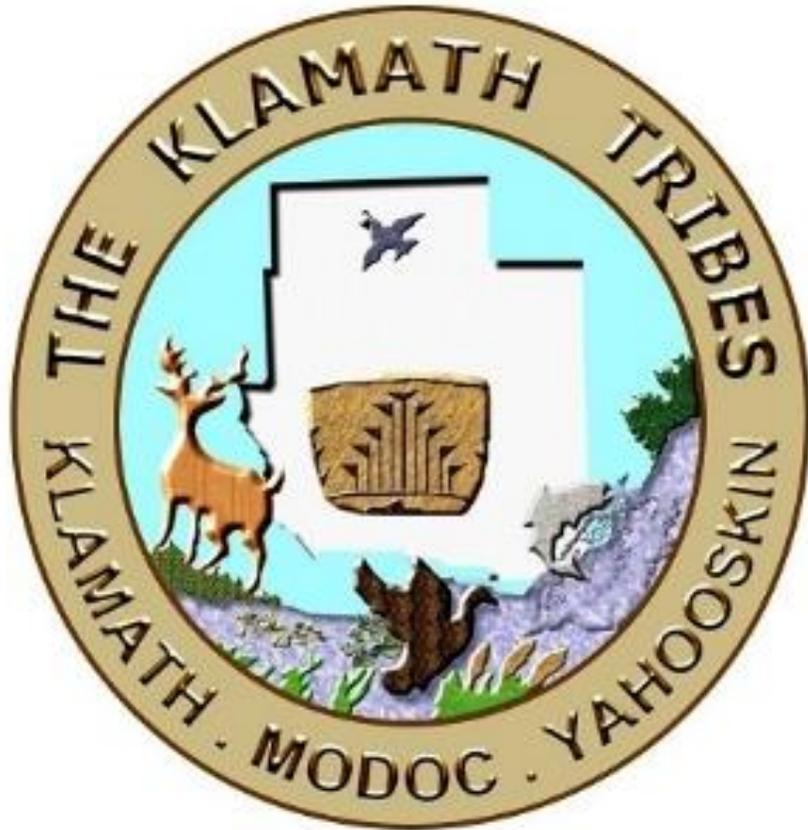
Dedication

This lesson is dedicated to all of the members of the Klamath, Modoc and Yahooskin Tribes who attended the boarding schools. As well as to the decedents of these members who felt the repercussions of the forced assimilation policy for generations.

We honor your perseverance and resilience.

With love, gratitude, and respect.

sepk'eec'a (thank you)



Additional Resources

- [The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition](#)
- [Blood Memory Documentary – Home](#) (Available through Kanopy)
- SB13 Tribal History/Shared History [Oregon Department of Education](#)
[: Senate Bill 13: Tribal History/Shared History : American](#)
[Indian/Alaska Native Education : State of Oregon](#)